

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

EURE-00 SAM-01 /129 W
----- 019440

O R 081528Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 264

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, EEC

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS ON MTNS, JANUARY 22

REF: A) STATE 305316, B) EC BRUSSELS 11625

1. SUMMARY: MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH HIJZEN AND PHAN VAN PHI TO DISCUSS THE JANUARY 22 CONSULTATIONS ON THE MTNS. HIJZEN AGREED TO DROPPING THE IDEA OF A COMMON TEXT STATING WHERE ISSUES STAND. HE SAID THE COMMISSION SAW THE CONSULTATIONS AS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HOPED THE US AGREED. THE COMMISSION AGREES THAT ONLY ONE DAY, JANUARY 22, IS NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PHAN VAN PHI SUGGESTED LAST WEEK (REF B), MISSION
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OFFICERS MET WITH HIJZEN JANUARY 6 HEAR HIS VIEWS ON THE

JANUARY 22 CONSULTATIONS, AND TO PASS ON POINTS IN REF A.

3. COMMON TEXT. WE ASKED WHETHER HIJZEN FELT THAT A COMMON TEXT GIVING THE "STATE OF PLAY" OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS REALLY NECESSARY. HIJZEN SAID GUNDELACH WANTED SUCH A TEXT SO THAT VALUABLE MEETING TIME WOULD NOT BE DEVOTED TO A DISCUSSION OF HOW THINGS STOOD. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIJZEN WRYLY NOTED US/EC DIFFICULTIES IN THE PAST IN AGREEING ON WORDING. HE FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT SUCH A PAPER WAS NOT NECESSARY. HE SAID HE WOULD ADVISE GUNDELACH TO THIS EFFECT. HIJZEN NOTED THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE WOULD BE NO "COMMON TEXT", HIS STAFF WOULD BE PREPARING INTERNAL BRIEFING PAPERS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS, AND SAID THAT HE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SHOW THESE TO THE US SIDE "AT THE PROPER MOMENT" IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. AGENDA. HIJZEN FELT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF THE MEETING. HIS MAIN CONCERNS WERE:

(A) THAT THE MEETING MIGHT BECOME TOO GENERAL; IT WAS NECESSARY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS;

(B) THAT THE LIST OF TOPICS SUGGESTED BY THE US OMITTED AR'S AND AGRICULTURE. HE FELT THAT, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE PROCEDURAL TANGLES THE TWO SIDES HAD REPEATEDLY GOTTEN INTO ON AGRICULTURE, IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSION IF ONLY TO

PLAN HOW TO AVOID BEING DRAGGED UNWITTINGLY INTO OTHER PROCEDURAL IMPASSES. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES IN THIS FIELD, TACTICAL MANAGEMENT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID TROUBLES.

5. WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA AS WELL AS THE COMMENTS OF OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS, HIJZEN AND PHAN VAN PHI PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING AS AN AGENDA FOR THE MEETING:

"THE PURPOSE AT THIS STAGE WOULD NOT BE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OR REACH AGREEMENTS. IT WOULD BE, RATHER, AN ATTEMPT TO SEE MORE CLEARLY WHAT THE ISSUES WERE IN EACH SUBJECT AND TO AGREE ON HOW PROGRESS COULD BEST BE MADE IN THE COMING YEAR."

DISCUSSION WOULD FALL UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS:
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"A. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

B. CHECKLIST OF PARTICULAR TOPICS (WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SEEING MORE CLEARLY WHAT THE ISSUES ARE UNDER EACH HEADING AND TO AGREE ON HOW PROGRESS CAN BEST BE MADE DURING 1976):

--TARIFFS

--NTBS

I. STANDARDS

II. SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING

III. QRS

IV. CUSTOMS MATTERS

V. GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

--SECTORS

--SAFEGUARDS

--AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING SITUATION IN GRAINS)

--SUPPLY ACCESS

--LDCS (E.G. TROPICAL PRODUCTS, DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT,

LDC CONTRIBUTIONS)

--GATT REFORM

--OTHER"

6. HIJZEN SAID THAT SOAMES AND GUNDELACH AGREED TO THIS
AGENDA.

7. SCHEDULE. HIJZEN AND GUNDELACH HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE
FOR A ONE-DAY MEETING ON JANUARY 22. THE MEETING WOULD BEGIN
AT 10:00 A.M., BE BROKEN BY A LUNCH GIVEN BY THE COMMISSION,
AND CONTINUE IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSA-
DOR DENT WILL PLAN TO LEAVE THE MORNING OF JANUARY 23.

8. PUBLICITY. IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION, HANNAY HAD TOLD US HE
FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AGREE HOW TO HANDLE PUBLIC INQUIRIES
ABOUT THIS MEETING. WHEN WE ASKED HIJZEN FOR HIS VIEWS ON THIS,
HE SAID THE POINT WAS IMPORTANT BUT THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE
TO REFLECT FURTHER ON IT. GREENWALD

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